



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: October 4, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director
Director(s) (805) 568-2467

Contact Info: Ashley Watkins, Sustainability Division Chief
(805) 568-3514

SUBJECT: Regional Climate Collaborative Grant Application

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- A. Approve and adopt a Resolution (Attachment A) authorizing the Director of the Community Services Department, or designee, to apply for and receive Regional Climate Collaborative Grant funds in an amount up to \$1,750,000 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 through Fiscal Year 2025-2026 from the California Strategic Growth Council; and
- B. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Partnership Agreement (Attachment B) with City of Guadalupe, a city government; City of Lompoc, a city government; Los Amigos de Guadalupe, a nonprofit organization; Children and Family Resource Services in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Education Office, a regional public agency, on behalf of its Santa Barbara County Promotores Network Program; Santa Paula Latino Town Hall, Inc., a nonprofit organization, on behalf of the Central Coast Climate Justice Network; California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, a nonprofit organization, on behalf of the Central Coast Climate Collaborative; Cachuma Resource Conservation District, a special district, on behalf of the Wildfire Resilience Collaborative; Community Environmental Council, a nonprofit organization; Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, a nonprofit organization; and Fund for Santa Barbara, Inc., a philanthropic organization, to implement the Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative under the Regional Climate Collaborative grant, for the period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

- C. Determine that the above recommended actions do not constitute a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15378(b)(2), as this involves continuing administrative activities, and 15378(b)(4) for the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment

Summary Text:

The Community Services Department's Sustainability Division has collaborated with a variety of community stakeholders throughout Guadalupe and Lompoc and the greater Santa Barbara County region to prepare an application for the Regional Climate Collaborative grant program. The grant would provide funding for numerous partners to develop plans, conduct community engagement activities, build local capacity and foster collaborative networks. Staff request that the Board adopt the resolution (Attachment A) to authorize the Community Services Department Director, or designee, to submit the application, and that the Chair of the Board execute the Partnership Agreement (Attachment B) to implement the grant.

Background:

The Regional Climate Collaborative (RCC) Program was included in the state's climate budget (Senate Bill 170 (2021)) to fund climate adaptation and resilience through planning, research, capacity building, restoration, and sustainable infrastructure. Senate Bill (SB) 1072 (Leyva, Chapter 377, Statutes of 2018) established the RCC Program to be administered by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) to create new and support existing Regional Climate Collaboratives (Collaboratives) across the state that will assist under-resourced communities in accessing funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. The legislation acknowledges that under-resourced communities often lack capacity and face challenges accessing State funding to address community priorities and recognizes the necessity of providing technical assistance resources to ensure every community has the same opportunity to achieve their climate and equity goals. As a capacity building grant program, RCC enables cross-sectoral partners to deepen relationships and strengthen local coordination, leadership, knowledge, skills, and access to critical resources to drive and sustain climate action.

The Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative (Collaborative) was established in March 2020 to meet the Board's direction to employ a regional approach to updating the Climate Action Plan (CAP) inclusive of neighboring jurisdictions and community stakeholders. With startup funding from the County, the Collaborative established a governance structure with a Steering Committee and three Subcommittees focused on Clean Energy Assurance, Carbon Farming & Land Stewardship, and Sea Level Rise Adaptation. Since its inception, the Collaborative has focused on defining the gaps needing to be filled and opportunities to strengthen the fight against climate change in Santa Barbara County, leveraging the unique resources each member has to offer.

The Sustainability Division identified the RCC program as an opportunity to build community capacity to address climate change, while expanding engagement in North County within the cities of Lompoc and Guadalupe as the communities of focus. County staff held numerous workshops and office hours with prospective RCC grant co-applicants (described below) to submit a RCC grant pre-proposal on July 15 and then prepare a full application for submission by October 7. If awarded, the grant – to be named the Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative (GLI) – would achieve the following objectives:

- The City of Guadalupe would lead the development and adoption of its Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Guadalupe Coalition of Nonprofits, led by Los Amigos de Guadalupe would mobilize

community service-providers to serve as an advisory committee and develop and implement community engagement activities to support the CAP. The Community Environmental Council (CEC) would also mobilize North County Food, Resilience, Equity, Sustainability and Action (NC FRESA) to engage residents and businesses in identifying food-related solutions to mitigating climate change and enhancing community resilience. Additionally, CEC would leverage an AB 617 grant award to conduct community air monitoring to engage the public on broader air quality issues and solutions. The Dunes Center would develop and implement climate change educational programming for local schools.

- The City of Lompoc would lead the development of a water percolation site feasibility study (Study). The Study would inform the development of a water resilience strategy. The Wildfire Resilience Collaborative (WRC) (administered by the Cachuma Resource Conservation District) would serve as the convener of local community-based organizations to engage the community to identify priorities and needs to address intersectional issues with climate resilience.
- The Santa Barbara County Promotores Network (administered by the Santa Barbara County Education Office) would provide native-language outreach and engagement on behalf of the various initiatives within each city as well as for the Partners.
- The Fund for Santa Barbara, in collaboration with the Partners, would develop a mini-grant program to offer opportunities for small organizations, informal networks, and individuals to implement community engagement activities addressing climate resilience.
- The County would work with the Central Coast Climate Justice Network (CCCJN, administered by Santa Paula Latino Town Hall) to conduct workshops on the CCCJN's Regional Green New Deal project in the communities of focus. CCCJN would also provide networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunities for local environmental and social justice organizations in the communities of focus.
- The County would also work with the Central Coast Climate Collaborative (administered by the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation) to implement a Central Coast Sustainability Symposium, which would bring together other Central Coast-based RCC grant recipients and non-recipients, to learn about collaboration in under-resourced communities. 4C would develop a Capacity Building Toolkit and Climate Solutions Inventory, to aggregate the resources, lessons learned, best practices, and shovel-ready projects across the Central Coast region.
- The County would coordinate and implement regular workshops, trainings, and peer-to-peer activities for residents and organizations within the communities of focus. Residents would be encouraged to participate through stipends, childcare support, food, and language access. The County would also administer the RCC grant and pass-through funding.

This project would address Board direction to develop regional approaches to advancing climate mitigation and resiliency efforts. The project will leverage existing infrastructure to create efficiencies and ensure coordination. This project builds local capacity by providing training and education, network development, inclusive community engagement, and by identifying and developing plans, programs, and projects for future funding opportunities.

The RCC program requires an Application Resolution (Attachment A) authorizing staff to apply, receive funds if awarded, execute the necessary grant-related documents, and complete the requisite tasks.

The RCC program also requires a minimum of four Co-Applicants who have signed a Partnership Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement (Attachment B) describes the governance, organization, and financial relationships of the Partners, which will govern implementation of the RCC Grant. Staff have

prepared and negotiated the attached Partnership Agreement with Co-Applicants, which is being presented for Board authorization.

Staff anticipate SGC will announce award recommendations by December 2022.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

If awarded, staff estimate up to \$238,640 of the total grant amount would go directly to the Sustainability Division to administer and implement the grant.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			\$ 1,750,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,750,000.00

Narrative:

Key Contract Risks:

Special Instructions:

1. Please provide one copy of the minute order to Ashley Watkins awatkins@countyofsb.org.
2. Staff request that the Chair sign the Agreement and Resolution no later than Oct 6 as the deadline for the grant application is October 7, 2022.
3. The Agreement is currently being circulated via DocuSign for signature by the other parties. October 4, 2022 is the anticipated date for the remaining organizations' decision-making bodies to authorize their respective agents to execute the Agreement.
4. Upon execution by all parties the Community Services Department will return a fully executed agreement to the Clerk of the Board for retention in the record.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Application Resolution

Attachment B – Partnership Agreement for the Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative

Authored by: Garrett Wong, Climate Program Manager